GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:543
ANSWERED ON:12.04.2017
Attack on Nuclear Facilities
Patole Shri Nanabhau Falgunrao

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a)whether the United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the US-based non-profit group Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) have alerted the world community of a possible threat of cyber and terrorist attack on the nuclear facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the measures taken by the Government to check the disastrous radioactive radiation in the event of attack on all or any of the nuclear facilities located in the country; and

(d)the funds allocated/released/spent in this regard along with the salient features of cyber security policy, if any, laid down by the Government with regard to the security of the said nuclear facilities?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a)to(d)A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*543 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 12.04.2017 BY SHRI NANA PATOLE REGARDING "ATTACK ON NUCLEAR FACILITIES"

(a)&(b) Yes, Madam. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has expressed concern in general terms about possibility of cyber and terrorist threats to nuclear installations globally, without indicating any specific details. Government takes these concerns seriously and remains alert and prepared to deal with such threats.

(c)All nuclear installations in India are designed and operated following a defence in depth philosophy. Inherently safe and highly reliable designs are supplemented with control and protection features to detect any deviation in plant safety parameters and restore the same to normal plant state. In case of any event, these features will ensure safe shutdown of reactor and mitigating the radiological consequences with containment as the final barrier to contain the radioactivity. In case of highly unlikely events leading to release of radioactivity, Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) plans are in place to protect the public. Trained Emergency Response Teams are available with Department of Atomic Energy's 23 Emergency Response Centres and the trained National Disaster Response Force teams will be able to help the authorities in the implementation of counter-measures and protection to people.

(d)Safety and Security are an integral part of all nuclear installations in the country. Required funds for this purpose are included in the overall scope of the project.

All the units of DAE have Information Security Policy/Cyber Security Policy based on ISO 27000 standards. The salient features of policy are −

Critical infrastructure of DAE is subjected to strict security requirements. All critical systems of Indian nuclear establishment's plant control systems/electronic systems are designed and developed in-house using custom built hardware and software which are subjected to regulatory verification and validation, thereby making them immune to cyber security threats. Critical infrastructure of Indian nuclear establishment is isolated from Internet and access to such systems is restricted to authorized personnel and closely monitored.

Department of Atomic Energy has specialist groups like Computer and Information Security Advisory Group (CISAG) and Task force for Instrumentation and Control Security (TAFICS) to look after cyber security/information security of DAE units including regular cyber security audit.

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